



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	12-05-02	Interpretation #	02-035
Topic	Door locks in school facilities		
Code Section(s)	Section 1003.3.3.1.8, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	John Neighbors Sprotte Watson Architecture and Planning 450 S Melrose Dr #200 Vista, CA 92083		

Can exterior doors in existing school restroom facilities be equipped with single piece latching hardware which would be a “classroom function retractable only” thumb-turn locking mechanism with key operated locking at the exterior face only?

No. The locking mechanism described above would require special knowledge or effort to open from inside the restroom if the door was to be locked.

The Informational Bulletin issued by SFM on 01-16-01 titled “Door Locks in School Facilities” explains that the code prohibits the use of deadbolts or like devices for classrooms and or similar areas which are normally occupied, including student restrooms. Thumb-turn mechanisms must be connected to a door handle or knob which would automatically disengage any locking mechanism in the door.